

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 615

By Person, Curtis

A RESOLUTION to commend Nina Elizabeth "Betty" Diepholz Loveless for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Nina Elizabeth "Betty" Diepholz Loveless is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, born in Memphis, the third child of Minnie Louise and Martin Heinrich Diepholz, Betty Loveless has an impressive and comprehensive business background and actively participates in numerous civic, community, and philanthropic organizations; and

WHEREAS, in December of 1963, Judge Kenneth A. Turner, the newly elected judge of the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County, hired Betty Loveless as his executive secretary; forty-two years later, she is still with the Judge, and she currently serves as the Administrator of Finance and Purchasing; and

WHEREAS, as a student at Humes High School, Betty Loveless held membership in the National Honor Society and was elected president of the History Club and the YTeens; she also worked as a telephone operator in the evenings, on the weekends, and during holidays with the Community Chest and with the Tennessee and Adler Hotels; and

WHEREAS, because of her husband's business transfers, the years of Betty Loveless's marriage found her moving frequently; these transfers included moves to West Virginia, Texas, and Arkansas; in each new location, Ms. Loveless found employment in different businesses and in a variety of positions; as Judge Turner's assistant, these experiences and responsibilities have proven invaluable; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to Memphis, Ms. Loveless attended the University of Memphis part-time while working toward a degree in public administration; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, with Betty Loveless as its representative, the Juvenile Court became a participating member of Executive Women International (EWI); headquartered in Salt Lake City, EWI brings together key individuals from diverse businesses for the purpose of promoting member firms, enhancing personal and professional development, and encouraging community involvement; Ms. Loveless has served in almost every elected and appointed position of the Memphis Chapter, including the presidency in 1974 and 1979; in 2005, the Memphis Chapter recognized her outstanding devotion to EWI by awarding her a life membership; and

WHEREAS, Betty Loveless was elected International President of EWI in 1988; in this new leadership role, Ms. Loveless was responsible for the overall management of the corporate office staff, as well as the organization's 4,500 member firms; Ms. Loveless traveled to many cities in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, as she encouraged both men and women to become leaders and channel their energies in directions that benefit everyone; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, Senator Curtis Person asked Betty Loveless to serve as the Memphis Heart Gala Auction Chairman; Ms. Loveless helped raise over 60,000 dollars and since 1985, she has served on the Gala's board of directors; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Loveless has been a member of the Variety Club International and Tent 20 Memphis for many years and helps in their fundraising efforts; she also supports the Executive Women International Scholarship fundraiser and the Women's Foundation for Greater Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Betty Loveless worked with the first Downtown Committee in its program to revitalize downtown Memphis; she has been active in the Arts Council, the Ballet Guild, the Memphis Opera Guild, the YWCA Women's Resource Center, the national chapter of The Purchasing Management Association, and the National Institute of Purchasing; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Betty Loveless currently serves on the Shelby County Retirement Board, and she has also served on the Boards of the Shelby County Federal Credit Union and of the Lowenstein House, an organization that assists former mentally ill adults in transition from institutional life to community life; additionally, Ms. Loveless has worked with the League of Women Voters in promoting good government and has been very active in local and national political organizations and campaigns; and

WHEREAS, in a program initially sponsored by the Memphis Board of Education, Betty Loveless taught courses in Job Readiness in local schools; the program was so well received that private schools soon requested Ms. Loveless's services; structuring the program in such a way that the students were role players, Betty Loveless gave students the opportunity to be leaders among their peers while learning the basics of applying for a job; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Betty Loveless was inducted into the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame in the women's basketball category; she was recognized for having been the top scorer and for receiving the Most Valuable Player and Best Sportsmanship awards during more than four years playing for the Memphis Park Commission and the Humes High School YTeens; and

WHEREAS, Betty Loveless's son, Warner Keith Loveless, and his wife, Carla Rene', have two children, Courtney Rene' and Corbin Alexander; Ms. Loveless and her family are members of the Germantown Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Betty Loveless's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Betty Loveless is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Nina Elizabeth "Betty" Diepholz Loveless for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.